

Project Lifesaver

The reliable rapid-response partnership with law enforcement aiding victims and families suffering from Alzheimer's disease and related disorders such as Down's Syndrome and Autism.





Sheriff Randall Johnson and Hawk One

How Project Lifesaver Works

Project Lifesaver relies on proven radio technology and a specially trained search and rescue team.

Clients that are enrolled in the Project Lifesaver program wear a personalized wristband that emits a tracking signal. When care givers notify the local Project Lifesaver agency that the person is missing, a search and rescue team responds to the wanderer's area and starts searching with the mobile locator tracking system. Search times have been reduced from hours and days to minutes. In over 1000 searches, there have been no reported serious injuries or deaths. Recovery times average less than 30 minutes.



The Project Lifesaver bracelet is much more than a passive ID bracelet. It is a one-ounce battery-operated radio wrist transmitter emitting an automatic tracking signal every second, 24 hours a day. The signal is tracked on the ground or in the air over several miles. As each bracelet has a unique radio frequency, the Project Lifesaver search team positively locates and identifies the person who has wandered away from home or a care facility.

Technology is Only Half the Story

Project Lifesaver belongs to each community. It's all about people and partnerships. Local law enforcement, civic groups, local business and care givers join in developing and strengthening all aspects of the program including rescues, education and especially fund raising so that families in financial need can have the protection, and peace of mind.

Project lifesaver emphasizes relationships between team members and the people who wander before the need may arise for a rescue. Team members visit the home of the bracelet recipients to install the transmitter and make regular visits to maintain the equipment. Project Lifesaver teams are specially trained, not only in search and rescue and the use of the electronic tracking equipment, but also in the methods necessary to communicate with a person who has Alzheimer's disease or related disorder.

Locating the individual is only part of the mission. The person who is located will be disoriented, anxious, and untrusting. The Project Lifesaver team knows how to approach the person, gain their trust and put them at ease for the trip home.

Cost of the Program

\$263.00 Bracelet

\$25/month Maintenance

**Indigent Funding
is Available for
those who Qualify.**

Help Protect the "Greatest Generation"

By forming partnerships with local law enforcement and public safety organizations, Project Lifesaver deploys specially trained teams with the most reliable technology available to quickly locate and return wandering adults and children to their families and care givers.

Over 5,000,000 people in the USA have Alzheimer's. That number will triple by 2050. Well over 50% of these people wander and become lost. A lost person with Alzheimer's or other dementia represents a critical emergency. They are unaware of their situation, they do not call out for help and do not respond to people calling out to them. Nearly half of them will die and many can become injured or fall victim to predators if they are not located within 24 hours. The number of people, families and communities experiencing this risk will grow dramatically in the next few years.

Project Lifesaver, a non-profit organization, has become internationally recognized as an aggressive and proven program that saves lives. By the end of 2003, Project Lifesaver will be operating in over 33 States and at least three countries. It is an active response to the problem of locating wandering patients before they fall victim to the elements, accidents, or predators.

Companies and individuals can do their part in protecting the "Greatest Generation". Make a donation through the Fayette County Sheriff's Department. Simply contact Lt. Belinda McCastle by calling 770-716-4801 or by e-mail at bmccastle@admin.com.fayette.ga.us.

History

Established in April 1999 as an initiative of the 43rd Virginia Search and Rescue Company of the Chesapeake, Virginia Sheriff's Office, Project Lifesaver is built on the work of the Stokes County (NC) Mountain Rescue program which pioneered the use of special equipment and procedures to locate lost and wandering patients with mental disorders. Amid the dramatic increase of people with Alzheimer's, Down Syndrome, and Autism, Project Lifesaver has become one of the leading organizations addressing the need to protect these patients and bring comfort to their families and care givers.

100% Recovery!

How Project Lifesaver Saves Lives

A 45 year-old man suffering from a traumatic brain injury became lost and disoriented. A deputy sheriff specially trained and equipped by Project Lifesaver was able to locate the man 1.5 miles from his home within 20 minutes.

An 80 year-old woman with Alzheimer's disease wandered from her home at night. The family contacted Project Lifesaver upon learning she was missing. Two Sheriff's vehicles equipped with Project Lifesaver equipment arrived on the scene and located the woman laying in a tobacco field. She had wandered into the field, fell, and could not get up. Rescuers reported that a person standing up to 10 ft away would not have noticed that a person was laying there. The helpless woman could have died if not located by Project Lifesaver..

Funding

Project Lifesaver, a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization, depends upon the support of the community. Project Lifesaver's goal is to provide the benefits of the program to all in need regardless of their ability to pay. Funding for the organization comes from private donations and grants from government, corporations and charitable foundations. All contributions made to Project Lifesaver are tax deductible and are used directly for program operations including rescues, equipment and education.



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